

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 01123 311258Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /054 W
-----311439Z 004176 /43

R 311132Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1430
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1123

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FI
SUBJECT: FINNISH REACTIONS TO KEKKONEN'S STATE VISIT TO SOVIET UNION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 7023, (B) MOSCOW 7182

1. SUMMARY: TWO MEMBERS OF FINNISH DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING PRES KEKKONEN ON STATE VISIT TO USSR MAY 17-24 GAVE THEIR VIEWS TO EMBASSY THAT VISIT WENT EXACTLY AS PLANNED AND WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. THEY OFFERED SOME IMPRESSIONS OF TRIP'S EVENTS. REACTION OF FINNISH MEDIA TO KEKKONEN VISIT AND COMMUNIQUE WAS VERY FAVORABLE AND, WITH MINOR EXCEPTIONS, ALMOST COMPLETELY UNCRITICAL. SEPTTEL ANALYZES COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

2. POLCOUNS DISCUSSED KEKKONEN TRIP TO SOVIET UNION WITH TWO MEMBERS OF 27-MAN DELEGATION THAT ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT ON HIS STATE VISIT. ONE MEMBER OF DELEGATION CONSULTED IS FOREIGN MIN. OFFICIAL AND OTHER UNOFFICIALLY REPRESENTED A PLITICAL PARTY.

3. BOTH EMPHASIZED THE COMPLETE HARMONY, SMOOTHNESS AND PROBLEM-FREE CHARACTER OF THE STATE VISIT WHICH, THEY POINTED OUT, HAD BEEN PREPARED IN DETAIL FAR IN ADVANCE. THEY BOTH CONFIRMED THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 01123 311258Z

EVERYTHING -- KOSTAMUS AGREEMENT, LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT, FINAL COMMUNIQUE -- HAD BEEN AGREED TO BEFOREHAND. THERE WERE NO ACCIDENTS, MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR SURPRISES. THEY NOTED PARTICULARLY THAT THE NEUTRALITY WORDING IN COMMUNIQUE WAS UNCHANGED FROM THAT USED IN RECENT YEARS.

4. THE POLITICAL MEMBER CONSULTED SAID THE VISIT AS A WHOLE

AND THE COMMUNIQUE SPECIFICALLY CARRIED A STRONG FEELING OF HISTORY AND OF CONTINUITY: FROM REFERENCE TO EVENTS 60 YEARS AGO (OCTOBER REVOLUTION, FINNISH PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE, LENIN'S DECREE RECOGNIZING FINNISH INDEPENDENCE), THROUGH THE 1948 FCMA TREATY AND INTO THE FUTURE (THE LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT UNTIL 1990)

5. THE POLITICAL MEMBER ALSO COMMENTED ON APPEARANCE OF LEONID BREZHNEV, SAYING HE CLEARLY HAD NOT FULLY RECOVERED FROM WHATEVER ILLNESS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SUFFERED. THE OBSERVER SAID BREZHNEV APPEARED TIRED, SLURRED HIS SPEECH AND DID NOT APPEAR AT ALL OF THE EVENTS THAT HE HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO ATTEND: SOURCE SAID OF COURSE THAT CAUSES OTHER THAN HEALTH COULD ALSO EXPLAIN BREZHNEV'S ABSENCES.

6. BECAUSE OF LACK OF REAL SUBSTANCE, EVERYTHING HAVING BEEN WORKED OUT IN ADVANCE, BOTH OBSERVERS INDICATED TRIP WAS ESSENTIALLY SYMBOLIC AND CEREMONIAL, DESIGNED TO EMPHASIZE GOOD FINNISH/SOVIET RELATIONS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL POINTED OUT WITH CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION THAT PRESIDENT KEKKONEN WAS FIRST TIME HOUSED IN THE KREMLIN, AN HONOR RESERVED FOR ONLY THE MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN VISITORS.

7. BOTH SOURCES CONSULTED THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE TOURISM ASPECTS OF THE TRIP, PARTICULARLY THE TRIP TO FRUNZE IN THE EAST: THEY WERE DULY IMPRESSED BY THE VAST SIZE AND MULTINATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE SOVIET UNION.

8. BOTH SAID THAT THE FINNISH DELEGATION HAD BEEN STARTLED IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HELSIN 01123 311258Z

LENINGRAD ON THE LAST DAY OF THE VISIT BY NEWS OF THE SUDDEN POLITICAL SETBACK OF THEIR OFFICIAL HOST, PRESIDENT PODGORNYYI. THEY HAD PERCEIVED NO HINTS DURING THE MOSCOW PHASE OF VISIT OF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. THEY SAID THEY HAD HEARD NO GOOD SPECULATION IN LENINGRAD AS TO POSSIBLE FACTORS IN PODGORNYYI'S DECLINE.

9. MEDIA COMMENTARY HERE ON KEKKONEN VISIT HAS BEEN FAVORABLE AND ALMOST COMPLETELY UNCRITICAL. EDITORIAL EYEBROWS WERE RAISED SLIGHTLY IN INDEPENDENT HELSINGIN SANOMAT AND CONSERVATIVE UUSI SUOMI AT FINNISH LANGUAGE VERSION OF COMMUNIQUE ITEM DEALING WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEDIA IN BOTH COUNTRIES IN "ACTING TO THE ADVANTAGE OF CONTINUED STRENGTHENING OF FRIENDSHIP AND TRUST BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF FINLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION." HOWEVER, RUSSIAN TEXT OF THIS ITEM IS UNCHANGED FROM SIMILAR ITEM IN 1973 COMMUNIQUE AND FINNISH LANGUAGE ADJUSTMENT IS DESCRIBED AS STYLISTIC.

10. PRESS ALSO MILDLY NOTED INCREASED EMPHASIS IN

COMMUNIQUE (COMPARED TO PREVIOUS COMMUNIQUE) ON
NORTHERN EUROPE, BOTH CONCERNING SECURITY AND COOPERATION
AS WELL AS FINNISH PROPOSAL FOR NORDIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE,
FOR WHICH COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED SOVIET UNION WILLING ACT
AS CO-GUARANTOR, IF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WERE TO
EXPRESS INTEREST. SWEDISH LANGUAGE HUFVUDSTADSBLADET
NOTED THERE NO REFERENCE IN COMMUNIQUE TO NATO ACTIVITIES
IN NORWAY.

11. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ANALYZING COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING KEKKONEN
VISIT. IN ADDITION TO COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE CONCERNING NEW ECONOMIC
AGREEMENTS, IT ALSO CONTAINS OTHER INTERESTING ASPECTS AND SUBTLE
DIFFERENCES FROM RECENT COMMUNIQUE, ALTHOUGH NOTHING
MAJOR OR STARTLING.
HOUSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977HELSIN01123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770193-0252
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977054/aaaaacni.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 72decc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 7023, 77 MOSCOW 7182
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2451785
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINNISH REACTIONS TO KEKKONEN'S STATE VISIT TO SOVIET UNION
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, FI, (KEKKONEN, URHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72decc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009